

What Is Claimed Is:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for a motor vehicle that affords occupant protection during impact of energy directed laterally against a motor vehicle door as a result of a collision, the device having a connecting structure (7) comprising at least two parts, a first part and a second part of which the first part is connected to the motor vehicle door and the second part (T2) is connected to an energy-absorbing area of the motor vehicle body located in the interior of the motor vehicle and the parts can be brought to enter an active connection via at least one common joining section for selective diversion of at least a part of the impact energy acting laterally on the motor vehicle door into an area of the body of the motor vehicle; and

wherein the first and/or second part undergo, due to energy input to a transformable material, a change in mechanical state in a form of a change in shape due to which the parts are made to adjoin and interlock.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the first part and/or the second part each have conform-designed joining contours in the joining section.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 2,
the first part at least partially encloses or partially enters the second part in the joining section.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the parts are made to adjoin in the joining section by closing the motor vehicle door.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the parts are interlockable and unlockable.
6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the transformable material is made of at least one of the following
classes of material: piezo-ceramics, piezo-polymer, electrostrictive ceramics,
electrorheological fluid, polymer gel, magnetorheological fluid, shape-memory
alloy, shape-memory polymer.
7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the first part and/or the second part or at least partial areas of the
first and/or second part are made of a transformable material which undergoes a
change in shape directly before and during the impact of energy directed at the
motor vehicle door as a result of a collision so that the two parts enter a,
dissoluble active connection.
8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1,
wherein on or in the motor vehicle, an approach sensory mechanism is
provided, which detects an unavoidable collision situation and generates a signal
by means of which the at least one active element and/or the intelligent structure
is activatable.
9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the motor vehicle door is a side door and the second part is
attached in the floor region of the motor vehicle body next to or under the
substructure of the seat.
10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the change in mechanical state yields an effect which influences
the vibration behavior and/or dampening behavior of the transformable material.

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1,
wherein the energy input to the transformable material is independent of
the crash energy.